

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making a hydraulic binder based coating formulation for coating a building product comprising adding to said binder a quantity of dewatering agent such that after application of a slurry of said formulation to said building product, said slurry can be dewatered through the building product.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent is provided in a sufficient quantity to maintain porosity in the slurry and the product to be coated during dewatering.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent is a particulate material.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent is selected from the group consisting of fly ash, alumina trihydrate, silica flour, cenospheres and mixtures thereof.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the slurry has a water content of up to about 50%.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes fibres.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydraulic binder used in the coating is selected from the group consisting of white, grey or pigmented cements, hydraulic limes and mixtures thereof.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydraulic binder used in the coating is selected from the group consisting of Portland cement, blended cements, blast furnace slag, pozzalans, masonry cement, oil well cement, natural cement, alumina cement, expansive cements and mixtures thereof.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the binder in the formulation is between about 10 and 50 wt% based on total dry ingredients.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein fly ash is the dewatering agent.
11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent comprises:
 - i) about 10 to 60% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients of a first fly ash component having a particle diameter between about 1 and 100 microns; and

ii) about 5 to 30 wt% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients of a second fly ash component having a maximum particle size diameter of around 10 microns.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent includes a coarse fraction fly ash having a particle size diameter greater than about 100 microns.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the formulation includes additives to improve resultant properties of the coating.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the formulation includes additives to improve workability and applicability of the slurry to the product to be coated.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein the formulation includes additives to improve the properties of the building product to be coated such that upon dewatering of the coating through the product, the building product is thus treated with said additive.